

BOOK REVIEWS

CALIFORNIA MEDICINE does not review all books sent to it by the publishers. A list of new books received is carried in the Advertising Section.

MARIJUANA: THE NEW PROHIBITION—John Kaplan, Professor of Law, Stanford University, Stanford, World Publishing Company, New York and Cleveland, 1970. 387 pages, \$8.50.

Here is a book by an attorney on a subject which the young of America and the American establishment consider of importance. And the difference in attitude towards marijuana on the part of the young and the establishment may in many communities be a most important feature of the generation gap.

Professor Kaplan was appointed in 1966 by the California Senate to a committee to revise the California Penal Code, last completely revised in 1872. By chance he was assigned the drug laws, about which he felt he had no knowledge or experience except that which he had acquired as a one-time prosecutor as Assistant United States Attorney. It became apparent at once that the key drug problem in California was the treatment of marijuana. Not until the treatment of marijuana was intelligently handled would progress in the broader area of drug abuse be possible.

Marijuana: The New Prohibition reviews the history of marijuana, how in 1937, four years after Prohibition ended, Congress outlawed the sale, possession, and use of marijuana. Professor Kaplan points out that the measure of the wisdom of any law is the measure of its total social and financial costs and the benefits that derive from this outlay. This book is an attempt to measure the costs of the criminalization of marijuana and concludes that the costs far outweigh the benefits.

The costs of the marijuana laws are not only financial, but involve removing the police from the pursuit of those involved in crimes against others, almost routine violation of civil liberties, and alienation both of youth and the police. There were about 50,000 arrests for marijuana use in California in 1968, and by Professor Kaplan's best estimates about one-third of California youth had used marijuana.

Dr. Kaplan then reviews in detail the evidence available against the use of and for the "criminalization" of marijuana, and finds it weak and flimsy.

Marijuana has become the symbol of a host of major conflicts in our society and though it is an oversimplification to say that marijuana users are long-haired hippies, many users do focus on immediate experience, are non-competitive, and not interested in acquisition of wealth. This involves a new life style which the establishment, including the police, finds threatening.

What are the ordinary effects of marijuana use? The everyday effects of marijuana—not the ones usually given for criminalization—are relaxation, euphoria, and a feeling that one's senses have been sharpened. This appears to be principally a focusing on the present, which can be a source of joy, or can be frightening.

The author then analyzes the evidence for and against the various accusations to which marijuana has been subjected—that it leads to aggression and to violence (the

opposite appears generally true), possible long-term effects, possible addictiveness, effect on driving capacity, and that its users progress to the use of more dangerous drugs. There is little evidence for this—for instance, in the Blum study on heroin, heroin users had used:—

Alcohol	100%	Sedatives	73%	Hallucinogens	50%
Tobacco	95%	Amphetamines	66%		
Marijuana	78%	Tranquillizers	62%		

and among marijuana users in a college population, heroin is virtually unknown—less than 1.5 percent.

Kaplan writes cogently and well, and the reader is carried along. The book is fascinating to the physician, and carries the special viewpoint of a scholarly attorney, a perspective most salutary to the conscientious physician who may see few limits to his responsibilities to society (and may get over his head in legal and social waters).

Kaplan ends *Marijuana: The New Prohibition* with an analysis of the possible alternatives open to American society in dealing with marijuana and draws conclusions with which we may not agree, but presented with a clarity which we are compelled to accept.

Required reading for all physicians relating to young people, schools, colleges, or interested in one of the major social problems of the day.

TALCOTT BATES, M.D.

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PROGRESS IN GASTROENTEROLOGY—Volume II—Edited by George B. Jerzy Glass, M.D., New York Medical College, New York, N.Y. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 757 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. (10017), 1970. 543 pages, \$29.50.

This excellent book is the second volume of a series on selected new topics in Gastroenterology. The editor, Dr. George B. Jerzy Glass of New York Medical College has assembled 28 chapters by 53 authors, including many from Canada and Europe. This volume has good balance between basic science and clinical medicine. Basic science material is clearly presented about such current subjects as back diffusion of acid in gastric mucosa, antibodies to gastrin, and intestinal flora in health and disease. Clinical subjects of great interest include x-ray features of hiatal hernia, the Zollinger-Ellison syndrome and celiac disease.

Special chapters are written on Pediatric Gastroenterology and the role of the Intensive Care Unit in Clinical Gastroenterology. Two other well-written chapters of great value include those of primary and secondary disaccharidase deficiencies and toxic dilatation of the colon in ulcerative colitis.

This fine volume should be in the library of internists, gastroenterologists, general practitioners, surgeons, radiologists and pediatricians. It is up to date, well-written, and for the most part very helpful to all practitioners of clinical medicine.

DWIGHT L. WILBUR III, M.D.